

March 18, 1975

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Question of Senator Luedtke. Senator Luedtke, the reference has been made a number of times that the principle purpose of this is to provide the revenue for an increase in judges salaries. Is that a probable truth?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: That is absolutely untrue. It has nothing to do with the judges salary bill, which is separate item which this body has the right to vote up or down. It only involves the county judges. All the rest of the judges already received pay increases last year, as everybody knows. They are already included in the system. The only judges that didn't receive any pay increase for the county judges, LB 141, will be up for due debate. We can all have our say on it when it comes up. You can vote it up or down at that time. They still have to go back and get appropriations, for any of these items, to the Appropriations Committee, which was the battle that we were talking about with Mr. Sullivan. He should do the same thing as the court system must do. I contend that this is based on the overall judicial system in Nebraska which has to be paid for by the State of Nebraska. This is a means of contributing to payment of that justice system.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Luedtke, I have a couple of questions if you would consent to answer them.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Yes sir.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Luedtke, does the money from this bill go into the general fund without earmarking?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Yes sir.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Will the salary for the judges come out . . . will it be appropriated from the general fund?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: It has to.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: It's the only way they can get it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I hate to talk too long on an issue but this is important. These are poor people that we are dealing with here now. Stop thinking about the judicial system. The system can support its own weight. These are people who are likely to be found guilty in a court system which is stacked against them in the first place. When it comes to politicians who can probably afford recounts, they have bills before the Legislature to allow certain recounts to occur free. We have a situation where somebody, in trying to get justice, has to pay. The justice system should not be dependent on revenue derived from the courts. They get money from people when people are found guilty. You are giving judges a financial stake in finding people guilty. Senator Luedtke, would you answer another question now that I've said those things?